

and women. It funds an increase in the number of border patrol agents to 20,019, providing additional jobs and better national security. I also support the provisions requiring DHS to monitor the medical care of all detainees held in immigration detention facilities and to direct Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to report to Congress on steps it has taken to ensure that all detainees are receiving proper medical care and attention.

I remain concerned about provisions in the bill regarding prisoners held in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. I commend President Obama's pledge to close Guantanamo Bay, but this bill fails to ensure that the rule of law and our commitment to universal human rights are being upheld for detainees.

Section 522(a) of the bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to conduct extensive threat assessments for all detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility as of April 20, 2009, and to place all detainees on the "no-fly" list unless there is Presidential Certification to exclude them on such a list. This section also prohibits any funds in the act from being used to provide detainees with any immigration benefits, including refugee or asylum classification. The treatment and detention of hundreds of foreign nationals held indefinitely and illegally without charge at Guantanamo Bay has violated our most basic democratic principles. The burden to right this wrong by ensuring due process for the remaining 245 falls on the U.S. The detainees held at Guantanamo Bay must be afforded habeas corpus protections. We must have the confidence in our own U.S. system of justice to try the detainees.

I will continue to work to ensure all have equal protection under the law. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, COORDINATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, as our understanding of human impacts on the environment grows, so too, must our commitment to the protection and conservation of the world's fish and wildlife resources. The United States is largely regarded as the global frontrunner in international fish and wildlife conservation. Our nation has a longstanding history of sharing our knowledge, technical abilities, and experience gained through the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to aid other countries in the conservation of their wildlife and wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, wildlife conservation resources, including trained wildlife professionals and basic logistical and communication tools, still commonly remain unavailable in many foreign range states that are home to globally significant species.

Notwithstanding the many successful conservation initiatives implemented by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service around the world through its programs such as Wildlife Without Borders Program, there remains a glaring need to improve coordination and col-

laboration within the Federal government. In addition, improving cooperation between the Federal Government and non-governmental organizations to increase public awareness about illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, to raise awareness about the implications of global biodiversity loss, to enhance assistance to range states in the conservation of their wildlife, and to close existing gaps in current conservation activities, is necessary and long overdue.

The Global Wildlife Conservation, Coordination and Enhancement Act of 2009, which I have introduced today, would address these needs by consolidating and enhancing the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to specifically conduct fish and wildlife conservation activities internationally. This legislation reflects the solid input gained through two oversight hearings conducted by the Committee on Natural Resources during the 110th Congress. The bill also benefits from extensive dialogue with wildlife conservationists, zoo and aquarium professionals, law enforcement experts, animal health and welfare organizations, and other stakeholders.

Title I of the bill would create an Institute for International Wildlife Conservation within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, through which the Department of the Interior's international conservation initiatives would be coordinated and collaborative partnerships built. The Institute, which would enhance and strengthen the Service's existing International Affairs Office, would have authority to carry out a targeted public education and awareness campaign to better inform U.S. consumers of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, and most important, what they can do to limit the United States as a market for illegal contraband.

The Institute also would be empowered to provide financial, educational and technical assistance to range states and other partner institutions to support capacity building, to create and enhance locally adapted wildlife management programs abroad, and to develop professional cadres of wildlife conservationists in the United States and abroad. In addition, the Institute, through its Center for International Wildlife Recovery Partnerships, would provide a forum for the active collaboration of federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental entities regarding wildlife conservation and the care, rehabilitation and recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Title II of this bill would create a Global Wildlife Coordination Council within the Executive Branch in recognition of the fact that international wildlife conservation is a multi-dimensional issue that requires the broad involvement of the Federal Government to be successful. This Council, which is patterned after the highly successful United States Coral Reef Task Force, would be comprised of various Federal agencies with a responsibility and stake in global wildlife conservation. To comprehensively address the myriad threats confronting global wildlife, this Council would be tasked to develop a cross-cutting strategy to better utilize existing resources to increase Federal coordination without creating new bureaucracy.

In closing, the illegal wildlife trade, which has received considerably less public attention than the illegal trade in narcotics and weapons, is an increasing challenge threatening not only the conservation of biodiversity but also

the social, political and environmental stability of range states throughout the world. Congress must act to ensure that the Federal Government has the authority and tools it needs to promote the conservation of wildlife resources abroad, to protect the environmental health and security of the United States today, and ensure that we pass on those resources to future generations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation and to strengthen the abilities of the Federal Government to provide critical wildlife conservation support around the world and to maintain the United States' leadership role internationally in wildlife conservation.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK REYES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor the career and contributions of a longstanding community activist, dear friend, loving husband, and father—Frank Reyes.

After 32 years of loyal service to the Inland Empire of Southern California, Frank recently announced his retirement from his post as Executive Director of Governmental Relations for the San Bernardino City Community College District (SBCCD).

Frank has made San Bernardino, California, his home since first immigrating to the United States from Guadalajara, Mexico, at age 12. He attended San Bernardino High School and Valley College before earning his degree in business from Cal State San Bernardino.

While Frank's academic background is in business, his true passion lies in the field of education. Before joining SBCCD, Frank worked as both a professor and a student counselor. During his tenure at SBCCD, Frank's strong leadership helped secure over \$100 million in grant money for both Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College.

Frank has received numerous Community Awards, from myself and many others for his excellent work in the areas of education, county safety, and community leadership.

Frank has been an active member of many distinguished professional organizations, including, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the California Teachers' Association, the California Community College Counselors Association, the Association of Mexican American Educators, and the Inland Empire Latino Business Council.

In addition, Frank has been involved in numerous philanthropic activities in the San Bernardino area. He is a board member with Hands of Mercy, which builds homes for the needy in Ensenada, is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, and has been very involved with the Jerry Lewis Fire Training Facility. I know Frank will continue to work tirelessly, even in retirement, to support the causes he believes in.

I have had the great privilege of becoming close, personal friends with Frank, his wonderful wife, Eloise, and their son Christopher. In addition to being an outstanding husband and father, Frank has always been a strong supporter to me and my family, and for that—I am forever grateful.